

BBC file

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, FBIS

FROM : Chief, London Bureau

SUBJECT: Analysis of East German Broadcasts

REF : Your Message dated 11 February 1955

DATE: 3 March 1955

1. A review of the East German programs which the BBC proposes to drop reveals that these broadcasts do not frequently carry political comment.

2. It should be noted, however, that seven of the 21 programs being deleted from BBC coverage yielded about 10,000 words in a seven-day period of filable copy, or more than one-fourth of all East German voice material filed in an average week.

3. Of those under consideration, the following are considered to be of some value:

a. Berlin II	1300-1310	Economic Talk
b. Deutschlandsender	1910-1920	Commentary (sometimes a repeat)
c. Berlin I	1930-2000	Radio Newsreel
d. Berlin II	1050-1100	Agricultural Talk
e. Berlin I and II	0530-0540	Agricultural Talk
f. Deutschlandsender	1600-1610	Feature or Talk
g. Deutschlandsender	2015-2030	Talk

4. In general it can be said that although the deletion of any single program on the proposed list would not be critical in itself, the deletion of all of them and the consequent reduction in over-all coverage of East Germany would result in a less complete picture of this country.

5. A review of East German broadcasts not taken by the BBC indicated that the coverage selected by the BBC was broad enough to provide frequent newscasts for spot reportage and diversified enough to maintain a good sampling among features, agricultural talks, and political and other commentaries. More time than was available would have been necessary for the BBC to have monitored and fully sampled the large number of uncovered broadcast hours from East Germany.

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